

Dr. Rocco Orlando Talking Points

- Good afternoon and thank you for letting me speak today.
- My name is Dr. Rocco Orlando III and I am President of the HH medical staff and a practicing general surgeon. And General Surgery departments. As an example of the strong bonds between the UConn School of Medicine and HH, I am also a professor of clinical surgery and actively involved in teaching medical students and residents.
- In addition to having served the Hartford community for the past 24 years, I am also a product and example of the region's educational and medical professional system.
- I graduated from University of Connecticut medical school in 1978 and did my surgical residency HH and the John Dempsey Hospital.
- As someone who knows the quality and the future possibilities of these two institutions, I think I have a unique perspective on this potential partnership.
- Since the medical school was founded, there has been an interdependence between the regions hospitals and the school of medicine. The presence of a robust engine for medical education both in Farmington and in Hartford has allowed us to recruit the best and brightest practitioners to the region.
- For years, we have trained some best doctors and medical professionals in the country only to watch as they leave the state. Our ability to recruit and retain the best doctors would suffer greatly if the School of Medicine is allowed to deteriorate and the Dempsey Hospital closes.
- As a nation, we are headed for a physician shortage in many areas, most significantly in Connecticut; we are facing a primary care crisis because there are simply too few doctors. Since 80% of graduating medical residents practice within 100 miles of the place they finish training, it is essential that we maintain our strong commitment to medical education as a matter of health policy for our citizens.
- In the area of medical specialties, a strong educational enterprise is required to provide high tech, complex and cutting edge health care. The doctors who are most innovative will only work within a strong academic environment. Without these physicians and these cutting edge and translational therapies, our citizens are forced to leave the state to access this kind of care.
- The proposed partnership between the University and HHC will provide for the creation of an 1100 bed university hospital which will better serve to meet the

medical manpower needs of the State of Connecticut. More of the practitioners needed by our population will be trained by our system resulting in improved access and quality

- There are over 1000 doctors who practice at HH and care for tens of thousands of our citizens from both greater Hartford and the entire state. This proposal has the support of the majority of our doctors, who see it as a way to improve the quality of care for our patients and as a way to advance the interests of medical education and research.
- I began medical school at UConn in 1974. While we provide excellent medical care and do a superb job of training young physicians, I have always felt that we have never completely lived up to our potential as an academic medical center. The small size of the Dempsey hospital and the lack of integration with the larger hospitals in the region has prevented us from reaching the top tier of medical care and innovation in the nation. This integration will allow us to realize that potential, a potential that was envisioned in 1963 when the founders of the UConn School of Medicine began their planning.
- To summarize, this proposal will enhance our ability to train, recruit and retain physicians for our citizens. As we attract high quality doctors with a commitment to education and innovation, we will advance health care quality.
- Thank you for your time and please let me know if I can answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Dr. Rocco Orlando III
President of Hartford Hospital Medical Staff
Professor of Clinical Surgery University of Connecticut School of Medicine